

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1915.

Extending Its Usefulness

JUNE 1, when the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank will inaugurate its clearing plan, under which it will undertake the collection of checks on member banks in the Fifth District, will see a wide extension of the usefulness of this institution. It may be expected that eventually the bank, in connection with its colleagues, will undertake the collection of checks of members throughout the whole system.

Free collection of checks will be a boon to those business men who have not enjoyed it in the past. It is true, as Governor Serry says, that the expense of such collection has fallen usually on the wrong parties to the transaction. The old methods have had other and grave disadvantages. It is pleasant to observe the Richmond Reserve Bank taking the lead in their amendment.

Light on Gas Works Lease

LET it be hoped that the Administrative Board will disappoint the prophets and not content itself with a simple recommendation to Council that the offer to lease the Gas Works, that are now pending, be rejected. Let it be hoped that the board will favor the public with an extended explanation of just why it takes this stand.

The matter is an interesting one, and the board claims to be possessed of special information. It should share its knowledge with the less-informed elements of the community, so that all of us may benefit. A simple statement that it thinks the lease offers should be rejected would hardly prove convincing.

We trust, at any rate, that the board's reason for opposing the lease is not the same as that of Arthur Glasgow—who wants the city to retain control because control accentuates the need of radical reform in the methods of municipal government.

Defense of the Pine Trees

IT is a good thing that we have a Forestry Department in this State under the charge of a competent expert. While the pine woods of Virginia are neither as valuable nor as characteristic as those of North Carolina, while we do not take our very name from the fruit of the pine—yet they are valuable enough and well worth conserving. American pine forests are at present menaced by the invasion of the European pine-shoot moth, an insect which has worked immense damage in the forests of Continental Europe. It is a small orange-red moth with wings. Its larvae feed on pine buds and the twigs of young trees.

The larvae attack trees between the ages of six and fifteen years, and occasionally older trees up to the age of thirty.

The pine-shoot moth was accidentally introduced into this country on some imported pine twigs. Its raids were almost immediately observed on Long Island, though at first the experts did not know what to attribute the blight to. As soon as they discovered the presence of the pine-shoot moth, measures were taken to protect the country from the foreign danger. The Department of Agriculture has forbidden the importation of European pine trees after July 1, 1915, under a quarantine order. It is difficult, however, to tell how far the pest has extended itself, and the Virginia Forestry Department may be called on for a vigorous defense of the native pine.

Same Provision for Defense

EVENTS of the last ten days have brought home to most of us the need of strengthening the country's naval and military establishments. Danger is so great and so obvious, indeed, that the pendulum may swing backward. From a wise disinclination to burden our people with militarism's fearful load—an attitude of mind that found expression, perhaps, in parsimony rather than economy in providing for national defense—there is a possibility now that we shall succumb to the clamoring of the jingo mob.

It was fine and encouraging to read the speeches of Secretary Daniels and Admiral Fletcher, delivered the other night at the dinner given in New York to the officers of the Atlantic Fleet; it was fine to share, as all of them must have done, the spirit of sturdy optimism that animated the letter of Admiral Dewey, read on the same occasion; but all of us agree that our navy should be placed in a condition of maximum efficiency.

Admiral Fletcher thinks there must be larger provision of torpedo-boat destroyers, submarines and fast cruisers. In vessels of the latter type, particularly, our navy is woefully deficient, and the deficiency should be remedied. The fine work done by the Navy Department under the direction of Secretary Daniels requires to be encouraged and expanded. Congress should make provision for a larger personnel, both commissioned and enlisted. More attention ought to be given the naval militia of the States and larger numbers of regular officers assigned to their drill and instruction.

So with the army. Secretary Garrison's moderate and sensible program, involving

the addition of 25,000 or 30,000 men to the regular establishment, invites approval. We think ourselves that the officers' corps should be so increased, in addition to those officers made necessary by new formations, as to permit the assignment of skilled military instructors, on a more generous scale, to the National Guard. We think the National Guard should be knit more closely to the army, and that larger provision should be made for its pay and maintenance. Certainly artillery and cavalry organizations ought to be supplied with horses, so that they may learn to maneuver as they would be required to do in war.

In both army and navy aviation must receive real encouragement. If, as has been suggested, American manufacturers of aircraft have not developed the type modern conditions approve, the government had better go in the manufacturing business for itself. Somehow, it will have to acquire the machines and train the men to use them.

These reforms seem both needed and obvious. They involve relatively small additions to our permanent establishment, but carried out in good faith would provide a navy reasonably adequate to the defense of our coasts and an army that would supply a first line of defense in case of attack. They place the emphasis where under our system and with our traditions it should be placed—on the National Guard.

We can do what is necessary without going war crazy or defense mad—and that which is necessary ought to be done.

With Germany Alone

IT is suggested in some of the dispatches from Washington that, in response to President Wilson's note, Germany will agree to the abandonment of submarine warfare, on condition that the United States insist on the right of neutrals to convey foodstuffs to German ports. It is inconceivable that this offer, should it be made, will meet with the administration's acceptance or approval.

The differences with Germany, which led to the President's splendid declaration of American rights, are with Germany alone. They constitute in themselves a perfect and impenetrable cause of action. The wrongs we have suffered are not condoned by British violations of other principles of international law, nor shall we endure the danger of their repetition, nor accept guarantees of their discontinuance which are made conditional on the acts or policies of a third party. We shall not permit our citizens to be transformed into hostages for British observance of a rule of conduct that Germany lays down.

Under international law, it ought to be remembered, the allies have an unassailable right to blockade the German coast. It is true that, in response to the German submarine policy, the allies have adopted a form of blockade not hitherto recognized, and have undertaken to extend this blockade, in effect, to neutral as well as to enemy coasts. That is an invasion of neutral prerogatives, against which this government has protested strenuously and against which it will continue to protest, but the injury inflicted is utterly unlike, whether in character or degree, that involved in the wanton destruction of defenseless American lives.

Germany must meet our terms directly. If an offer to arbitrate the questions at issue be accompanied by a promise to suspend, while the arbitration is in progress, the methods of warfare from which our protest springs, it may be acceptable. Indeed, as has been suggested before on this page, it would be difficult for the United States to decline arbitration when the proposal is accompanied by an agreement to abandon submarine attacks on merchant shipping.

We would guarantee in this fashion that future safety of our nationals on the high seas that was the principal object of Mr. Wilson's note. Certainly, we have no desire to emulate Germany in professing scorn for and indifference to the views and opinions of other enlightened nations. Certainly, also, we cannot be distrustful of the finding of any arbitral board that could be selected. "Three is he armed who hath his quarrel just," and America should have no hesitancy in submitting its cause to the judgment of honest men, as it would have no hesitancy, in the more dreadful alternative, of submitting that cause to the arbitrament of the sword.

We discuss these matters at this length because they are the subject of present speculation. If, however, we were ourselves to hazard a guess at the nature of the German reply, it would be that the note from the Wilhelmstrasse will contain the very proposition that America cannot accept—the suggestion that this nation become the dagger at Britain's throat. Doubtless, there will be an adequate number of fine phrases and expressions of regret, but we shall be surprised to find it meeting the issue with the frankness the situation demands.

Decision, however, rests with Berlin. The Kaiser and his advisors, with the President's note before their eyes and the unanimous approval of that note by American sentiment within their consciousness, must cast the die.

Pan-American Finance

IN the stress of war news we are likely to forget that on May 24 one of the most important conferences ever held in this country will begin in Washington. This is the Pan-American Financial Conference, called by Secretary McAdoo. Eighteen of the twenty American republics will be represented.

This conference is the first great effort on the part of this country to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunity offered by the war for bringing the United States into closer contact, commercially and otherwise, with South America. The specific purpose is to improve banking facilities, so that the Latin-American republics can trade on advantageous terms with this country. At present South America is a commercial tributary of England; we have little more connection with our sister continent than we have with Asia.

In the past the United States has been unpopular with the South American republics. Although it has been only the Monroe Doctrine and English support of the Monroe Doctrine which have stood between South America and attempted conquest by outside powers, the United States has never received the slightest credit for its efforts in support of South American independence. We have usually been regarded with suspicion, if not with ill-will, by our southern neighbors, who, nevertheless, owe their existence to us. This estrangement is partly our own fault. We have made no serious attempt to gain the business and friendship of South America. Our efforts in that line have been sporadic. In 1859 Secretary of State Blaine convened the first great conference of American republics, but this promising start was never followed up. The opportunity is ours again to win the trade and friendship of our southern sisters.

SONGS AND SAWS

No Frills, Anyhow.
Some folks insist
That Italy's messed
The path of faith and duty;
She will not fight
For "truth" or "right,"
Or other moral beauty.

The hopes of Rome
Lie closer home
To facts—eschewing fancies—
She'll saunter in
When she can win
And take the fewest chances.

She doesn't take
The time to make
A single protestation,
Except that she
Is bound to
A somewhat larger nation.

Her simple song
Of course is wrong—
It violates tradition—
Always before
Each nation swore
'Twas free from raw ambition.

But after all
If truth should bawl
Her message from the steeples,
Would she not say
That Italy's way
Is that of other peoples?

The Psalmist Says:
It never rains but it pours. That is why we have the European war, revolution in Mexico, uprisings in Portugal, oppression in China and the Roosevelt-Barnes libel suit all at the same time.

Modesty.
He—Why are you always reminding me that you might have married some one else?
She—I don't recall that early error of judgment so much, your account of it is so embarrassing. I want to preserve in myself a proper intellectual humility.

Financial Precaution.
"Can't you close up that little account you owe me?"
"I could but for one thing. Because of the unsettled condition of our foreign affairs I have felt compelled to declare a moratorium."

Nearly All.
Grubbs—Is Jinks very much of a jingo?
Stubbs—I should say he is. In fact, you might say he is typical of the whole brood. He is very anxious that everybody shall go to war except himself.

Out of Character.
It really is quite curious—
No matter what you say—
That all the folks penurious
Should give themselves away.

THE TATTLER.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From Newspaper Files, May 18, 1865.)

A Washington dispatch to the New York Tribune says the public here manifests utmost enthusiasm over the capture of Jefferson Davis. Some timid politicians, however, express a wish that he had escaped to foreign parts, or been shot and killed while trying to escape. They fear that his possession may be embarrassing to the United States government.

It is now understood that Mr. Davis and the other officials of the Confederate government captured with him have been conveyed to Savannah, and from there they will be taken by steamer to Fortress Monroe.

The trial of the so-called Lincoln conspirators is dragging its slow length along in Washington. The trial is being held behind closed doors, and as yet no reporters for the newspapers are admitted. Therefore no definite news can be given, but it may be anticipated. The so-called conspirators are being tried for a purpose, and that purpose is well defined. The case was assembled to convict, and convict it will. No one arraigned before it can hope to escape the gallows. All are doomed, and were doomed before the trials commenced.

A dispatch from Nashville, Tenn., says Governor Joseph Brown of Georgia was arrested last Monday in that city and has been made a prisoner of war. Governor Brown was in 1861 a vigorous secessionist, and continued so to be all the while, so says the dispatch; but his opposition in the last of the civil wars, to the Confederate administration, and especially the peculiar methods of President Davis, are urged as somewhat of a palliation in his case. Another Governor Brown is now a prisoner, and he will have to take his chance. He has always taken good care of himself, and no supposition is that he will continue so to do. The Governor is a sly old codger, and it will be strange if the Yankees get the best of him.

Major-General Emory, commanding the Department of Virginia, has issued an order excluding from the District of Columbia, or in the States of Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri. Such are prohibited from returning to their homes without special permission from the War Department.

Major-General Gibbons, commanding the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, has established his headquarters on the River Road, or the Cary Street extension, one mile from the city. He has not much to do out there, but his headquarters are very stylish, and he and his subordinates are putting on many airs.

The Adams Express Company, which deserted Richmond at the first shot of the cannon in 1861, has come back again, and yesterday established an office in the city. All the deserters are trooping in, now that there are some prizes.

The President of the United States, and his name is John, has recognized Dan von Groning as vice-consul of Italy, stationed at Richmond.

The men of New York who speculate in gold coin are at sea. One day the precious metal, about any known cause, soars away up yonder, and the next day it falls down to the bottom. The latest reports are to the effect that gold was selling freely at 129, which was considerably below the figure quoted two weeks ago.

Current Editorial Comment

The experiment of practically transferring the functions of government to the people in their capacity of voters at the polls through the initiative, referendum and recall has come to its own in the State of Washington. The petition nuisance, as it is now called, has finally become too great for tolerance. It is an axiom that anybody will sign a petition for anything. Professedly a reformer, the petitioner became a familiar figure. The presentations of petitions became a nuisance. So the Legislature has passed a law—and over the Governor's veto—that there shall be no more petition passing and collecting of signatures. Hereafter when petitions are desired for some of the objects which the Western idea of managing government approves, such petitions shall be posted at certain places, and voters sufficiently interested shall go there to sign their names. This is a decided improvement. The old willingness to sign petitions, often to get rid of importunate things in the way of careless nomination, freck legislation, and so on, that the initiative and referendum fell into disrepute. Hereafter the voter must be sufficiently interested to go after the petition, instead of having it come after him. It is a rational reform, for the petition nuisance was the bane of the reformer. This may indicate that a sober sense is taking hold of the people, and that they will ask themselves later why there should be the petition nuisance. It is the swing of the pendulum starting back toward representative government by which voters shall elect men to

attend to the needed affairs of lawmaking and public regulation. Petition is a legitimate function in public life, but its legitimacy lies in the sober notes of the signers concerning some abuse to which it is deemed desirable that the regular functions of government have their attention called in this emphatic manner. When it is used as a regular political instrument, as it has been under the newangled form of government in Western States, it loses its force and effect and becomes an instrument of political manipulation. The State of Washington has taken one step to get out of the middle of government which the hysteria of recent years has caused.—Indianapolis News.

There runs through the columns of the inspired German press a strange delusion that in case of hostilities between Germany and the United States the so-called German-Americans of this country will take sides with Germany, and we shall be torn by a civil war that will cause us violence. That belief is the inspiration of madness. Berlin could make no graver blunder than to be guided by it in shaping its reply to the President's note. Foreigners are often deceived by the acronyms of American controversy. They are never more certain to be deceived than when they expect the American people, in the face of a national crisis, to divide on racial lines. The true sentiment of the American citizen of German blood and German birth is expressed by that noble old patriot, Rudolph Blankenburg, Mayor of Philadelphia, when he says, "I am past seventy, but, my friends, that is not too old to fight in defense of the flag if necessary." This is the issue of war between Germany and Great Britain; their sympathies are naturally with Germany. In any issue of war between Germany and the United States their sympathies and their lives will be with the United States. This is our country. Its laws are their laws. Its government is their government. Its institutions are their institutions. Its rights are their rights. Its honor is their honor. Its future is the future of their posterity.—New York World.

Allegiance Is Not Divided
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Derivation of West Point.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—When the name of West Point is changed is entirely an affair of the people of that town; but such a mistake as that made in a recent issue as to the origin of the name should be corrected.

An Indian named John West, a son of the Queen of Pamunkey, appears in our records, but he had nothing to do with the name of West Point. John West, brother of Lord Delaware, and one of three brothers who were Governors of Virginia, lived in the colony of West Point at an early date, and the holdings of the family were largely increased by his sons and grandsons. The Revolution the family moved to the West, and the name of West Point was given to the town. The name of West Point is derived from the fact that the town was founded by John West, a son of the Queen of Pamunkey, and one of three brothers who were Governors of Virginia.

The Voice of the People

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Answers Submitter's Defender.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—In your column under the heading, "The Voice of the People," appears an article written by Mr. H. B. Grom, a gentleman who claims to be an American in every sense of the word. I wish to deny this allegation, and believe that every true American citizen will agree with me. It may be true that Dr. Grom's grandfather and father may have worn the Gray, but that is no reason why he should wear the Gray or Blue. In my humble judgment, a man that will willingly condone a crime like that committed by the Confederates, is not a true American or worthy to be called such. He goes further and states that they got what they deserved. Is that not enough to make one's blood boil? When the Confederates killed little children struggling in the blue water of the ocean without an effort to save the little bodies from certain death?

I would like to say one more word. No, Dr. Grom, I think you are wrong. The sentiment of the people is with the allies, and not with your friends, the Germans. F. E. G.
Petersburg, Va., May 14, 1915.

Chemical Company's Dividend.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—An editorial in your paper of to-day, headed, "Policy of Overcaution," I think might have been written by a person who does not thoroughly understand the situation.

You are right in stating that the Virginia Chemical Company has been for many years a regular dividend payer. In fact, it has paid dividends on its preferred stock of 8 per cent every year since it was organized in October, 1904. The dividends have been paid quarterly, except the last two quarters of the fiscal year ending May 31, 1915. For these two dividends the company declared a dividend of 4 per cent, which will be paid to the stockholders of record May 31, 1915, just as soon as the scrip has been registered. The company is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Virginia, with the right of redemption by the company January 1, 1916, at par and accrued interest.

We have positive assurance that any stockholder who desires to sell his scrip any time during June, 1915, can do so at the rate of 99 cents on the dollar. The value of the scrip will be called upon to sacrifice his scrip, nor can we see that under these conditions any stockholder can have any cause for complaint.

T. MORRIS,
President Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company.

Richmond, May 17, 1915.

Queries and Answers

Voting.
How may a person who will be twenty-one by election day get his poll tax paid, seeing that there is no assessment against him?
HANOVER.

He would have to explain the facts to the assessor, who is empowered to make assessment in such cases.

Examination of Minerals.
May I have minerals examined free of charge anywhere in Virginia?
The Commissioner of Agriculture, Capitol Building, Richmond, Va., will do the best he can to have the Bureau of Chemistry attached to his office do this sort of work for citizens of the State. Write to him.

Etiquette.
I go to all an engagement to take a lady driving and find three callers. Would it be good manners for her to keep her engagement with me?
Certainly.

Carnegie Medal.
To whom should application be made for the Carnegie medal?
F. M. Wilmut, Secretary Carnegie Hero Fund, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Disinfectant.
Will you tell me why I replied in your paper to a recent query when I sent stamped and addressed envelope for answer?

MISS R. O.
Your question was one of some general interest. There was nothing about it which rendered the answer as given improper. You signed your name in full, and the initials only were given in the paper. We should soon have no query column if we sent private replies to all questions, and then, of course, we should not have the incentive of keeping up a valuable discussion. Of the paper, we should soon cease to reply at all to letters such as yours. It often happens a subscriber takes an hour to answer. Sometimes we are asked to send a question to the editor, and then, of course, we should not have the incentive of keeping up a valuable discussion. Of the paper, we should soon cease to reply at all to letters such as yours. It often happens a subscriber takes an hour to answer. Sometimes we are asked to send a question to the editor, and then, of course, we should not have the incentive of keeping up a valuable discussion. 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